

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 02506 121556Z

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 121525Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9041

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YAOUNDE 2506

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CF, CT, CM

SUBJ: CONGOLESE ENVOY COMMENTS ON CONGO-CAR "MISUNDERSTANDING"

1. MR. PAUL HENRY OLASSA, CULTURAL COUNSELLOR AT THE CONGOLESE PRESIDENCY, MET WITH PRESIDENT AHIDJO FOR A HALF-HOUR ON FRIDAY JULY 9, TO DELIVER A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT NGOUABI. ASKED BY JOURNALISTS AFTERWARDS ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT, THE ENVOY CITED FRATERNAL AND BLOOD TIES WHICH EXIST BETWEEN THE CONGOLESE AND CAMEROONIAN PEOPLES, AS WELL AS COMMON MEMBERSHIP IN UDEAC, TO SAY THAT SUCH VISITS AS HIS OWN SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISING. ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE CONGOLESE CENTRAL AFRICAN DISPUTE ACCORDING TO WHICH CENTRAL AFRICAN MERCENARIES ARE THOUGHT TO BE TRAINED AT BRAZZAVILLE, MR. OLASSA HAD THIS TO SAY: "IN TRUTH, THERE ISN'T ANY DISPUTE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. IT'S MORE OF A MISUNDERSTANDING." HE SAID THAT A CONGOLESE MISSION HAD BEEN SENT TO BANGUI CONCERNING THE AFFAIR, AND THAT THE CENTRAL AFRICAN PRESIDENT HAD MADE IT KNOWN THAT THE MISUNDERSTANDING WOULD BE CLEARED UP SOON.

2. A SECOND CONGOLESE EMISSARY, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE SATURNIN OKABE, WAS RECEIVED BY PRIME MINISTER BIYA ON SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 10. MR. OKABE ARRIVED IN YAOUNDE LATE FRIDAY EVENING FROM BANGUI. CAMEROON TRIBUNE OF JULY 12 REPORTS

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THAT OKABE WAS 'VERY RESERVED' WITH THE PRESS AND SAID ONLY

THAT HE BROUGHT A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT NGOUABI TO HIS BROTHER
(THE NEWSPAPER PLACED 'BROTHER' IN ITALICS) PRESIDENT AHIDJO.
HE DID SAY THAT HIS MISSION WAS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF
MR. OLASSA.
SPIRO

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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